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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/755,994	01/13/2004	Christina B. Tomlin	15281US01	1468

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EXAMINER

KERSHTEYN, IGOR

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3745

DATE MAILED: 03/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

871

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/755,994	Applicant(s) TOMLIN ET AL.	
	Examiner Igor Kershteyn	Art Unit 3745	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 17, 19 and 20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4, 7-10, 15 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 3, 5, 6, 11-14 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 January 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>01/13/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because they do not comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121(d) for being formal drawings. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claims 3, 12, and 18 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 3, lines 2 and 3, "VELCRO" should be --Velcro--,

In claim 12, lines 2 and 3, "VELCRO" should be --Velcro--,

In claim 18, lines 2 and 3, "VELCRO" should be --Velcro--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 4 recites the limitation "said closed end" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 7-10, 15, 16, and 4, as far as it is definite, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Canna et al. (6,464,594) in view of Anetrini (5,516,264).

Canna et al., in figures 1b, 6, 7, and column 5, lines 24-30, 42-46, teaches cover 309 for a fan blade, comprising: a sleeve 311, an ornament 400; and connection features (See column 5, lines 42-46) extending from said sleeve 311 and said ornament 400, said connection features engaging each other to connect said ornament 400 to said sleeve 311 such that, as said fan blade rotates, said sleeve 311 and ornament 400 rotate therewith.

Canna et al. doesn't teach the sleeve having an open end for receiving said fan blade, said sleeve having hook and loop fasteners that are configured to engage each other to secure said sleeve about said fan blade.

Anetrini, in figures 1-5, teaches a fan blade cover sleeve 10 having an open end 18 for receiving a fan blade 16, said sleeve 10 having hook and loop fasteners 32a, 32b that are configured to engage each other to secure said sleeve 10 about said fan blade 16.

Since Canna et al. and Anetrini are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor, that is the covers art, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the sleeve of Canna et al. with the open end and hook and loop fasteners as taught by Anetrini for the purpose of providing an easily removable cover that can be selectively decorated in a manner pleasingly harmonious with the room decor.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 17, 19, and 20 are allowed.

Claims 2, 5, 6, 11, 13, 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 3 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the claim objections set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the claim objections set forth in this Office action.

Prior Art

Prior art made of record but not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure and consist of four patents.

Hardee (4,676,721) is cited to show a cover for a fan blade having a sleeve with an open end for receiving the fan blade, and hook and loop fasteners but fails to teach an ornament and connection features.

Williams et al. (4,904,220) is cited to show a decorative mobile having a cover and a blade but fails to teach an ornament and hook and loop fasteners.

Junkin (5,110,261) is cited to show a cover for a blade but fail to teach a sleeve and an ornament.

Art Unit: 3745

Clymer (D478,380) is cited to show a bade and an ornament attached to a bottom side of the blade but fails to teach a cover and connecting features attaced to the bottom of the cover.

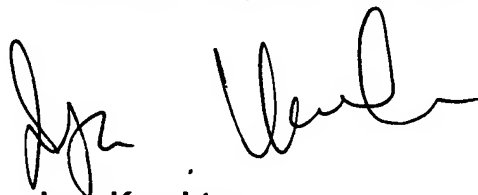
Contact information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Kershteyn whose telephone number is **(571)272-4817**. The examiner can be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Look, can be reached on **(571)272-4820**. The fax number is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 0861.

IK
March 10, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Igor Kershteyn', is written over the printed name.

**Igor Kershteyn
Patent examiner.
Art Unit 3745**